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EASTERN EUROPEAN INTELLIGENCER

10 April 1968

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King Demonstrations in West Berlin

Both moderate and radical students held demonstrations for Martin Luther King on 8 April. The moderates numbered about 1,000 and were joined by Governing Mayor Schuetz and US Minister Morris. The group assembled in the Wittenberg Platz and walked to the JFK Square in front of the Rathaus Schoeneberg where Schuetz, Morris and acting House of Representatives President Lorenz made brief speeches honoring King.

About 10 minutes after the demonstration, a group of more than 1,000 leftist students organized by the student government of the Technical University entered JFK Square at a trot carrying red banners and displaying such slogans as "Memphis is Burning--When Will the Pentagon Burn?" and "Race Warfare Equals Class Warfare." The demonstrators chanted "Black Power Now," and a member of the radical Republican Club seized the microphone used by Schuetz and addressed the group. American black power advocate Ray Robinson also spoke and the demonstration concluded with the singing of the "Internationale."

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Berlin Easter March Cancelled

Dissident youth groups have withdrawn their application to stage a march on Easter in West Berlin. "grave differences of opinion" among the Easter March Society, the Socialist German Students League (SDS) and the radical leftist Republican Club have caused leftists to cancel the march. Instead, some demonstrators intend to pass out leaflets and perform various low-key picketing activities.

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COMMENT: There have been reports of friction among the various leftist groups in Berlin for some time over the type of demonstrations, i.e. violent or non-violent, to be used when protesting against such targets as the "establishment", and US policy. In previous years the Easter peace march protesting the Vietnam war has constituted a rather sizeable demonstration. West Berlin authorities undoubtedly are relieved that the leftists plan only token demonstrations this Sunday.

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### Yugoslav Language Controversy Still Simmers

A minor incident at a ceremony held 18 March in honor of the 150th anniversary of the birth of Croatian poet Petar Preradovic revealed that the Serbo-Croatian language controversy is far from over. The celebration was organized by the Yugoslav Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Croatian Writers Association and the Croatian Matica. One of the speakers, in commenting on Preradovic's poetry, remarked that language cannot be established by decree, but evolves naturally as part of the innermost feelings of a people. The remark reportedly brought forth great applause from the audience of public officials, cultural workers, artists, writers, and Zagreb University professors and students. The applause has been interpreted in party circles as a manifestation of Croatian nationalism.

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COMMENT: The three organizations behind the ceremony are the same ones which were implicated in the preparation of a declaration on the Croatian language in the spring of 1967. At that time several prominent intellectuals were expelled from the Croatian party for supporting the declaration, which complained that the Croatian language was being slighted in Yugoslavia. Among the speakers at the Preradovic ceremony were several of those expelled.

### Bulgaria Shows Tourist Increase In 1967

The number of tourists visiting Bulgaria in 1967 increased by approximately 200,000 over the 1966 figure, according to

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Georgi Kasov, Chief of the Bulgarian International Department of the Committee of Tourism. Most tourists came from the West; 150,000 West Germans, 45,000 French, 30,000 Italians and Austrians, and 20,000 Swiss. The overall increase in tourism from Western countries reportedly was between 10 and 12 per cent. Greek tourists, however, completely stopped coming after the military coup last year and the number of Americans visiting Bulgaria declined--reportedly due to the Middle East crisis. The largest increase in tourists from eastern Europe came from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

COMMENT: The embassy reports that Mr. Kasov expressed hope for increased tourism from the "socialist" countries, but in contrast with his usual high expectations made no mention of the West. This probably reflects the regime's sensitivity to recent Western press criticism of Bulgarian tourist attractions and service facilities.

#### Bulgaria Enacts New Criminal Code

The sixth session of the Fifth Bulgarian National Assembly enacted a new criminal code emphasizing rehabilitation, employing a wider range of sentences, and reducing the maximum period of imprisonment as well as the number of crimes requiring the death sentence. The new code emphasizes correctional work, deals harshly with "habitual criminals," and allows for only three types of punishments for minors; imprisonment, public condemnation, and deprivation of the right to exercise a specific profession or activity. [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

COMMENT: While the revised code provides for more flexibility in sentencing and reduces the harshness of punishment for some crimes, its fuzzy wording leaves the courts numerous "loop-holes" which will allow arbitrary decisions. In the final analysis, the regime's continued failure effectively to guarantee the individual's rights before the law leaves the average Bulgarian in little better shape than before the new code's enactment.

[REDACTED]

NOTE: THE EXPRESSED VIEWS ABOVE REPRESENT  
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